The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor covering in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized June 19, 1918.

FIGHT TB
Buy
Christmas Seals

WHOLE NO. 1963 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1948 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 38, NO. 47

AFL Adopts Policy Favoring T-H Law Repeal, Wagner Act Revival; Broad Program Set at Final Convention Sessions; Barkley Speaks

Vice President-Elect Pledges Democrats To Press Drive For Labor Law Repeal; Ovation Given Him by Delegates

Cincinnati.—Vice President-Elect Alben W. Barkley told the 67th convention of the American Federation of Labor that the Democratic party would stand by its pledge to seek repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

In an address to the delegates here which gave him a rousing welcome, the veteran U. S. Senator from Kentucky declared that campaign promises were "not an 'old' story" since the election is over.

Mr. Barkley's address evoked the loudest and most prolonged demonstration of appreciation exhibited by the delegates to the convention. Rising to their feet at the conclusion of his message, they cheered the venerable Democratic leader as he made his departure from the convention hall.

While pledging unqualified support for the AFL's drive to bring about the early repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Barkley told the convention that he expected any such move to result in the early weeks of the first session of the 81st Congress. He pointed to the need to organize the new Congress and the slowness of operations under the rules of the Senate and the House as factors tending to interfere with immediate repeal action. He declared, however, that the repeal measure would be one of the first bills to receive "favorable attitude as possible."

Expressing the view that the Wagner Act, like any other law dealing with economic or labor problems, required some modification in the light of experience, he maintained that the necessary changes "ought to be made by those who believe in the law and its fairness and not by those who are in favor of its destruction."

The Senator said that one of the first things the next Congress would do after it organized in January would be to repeal the "odious" Taft-Hartley law.

This will be done, he said, "so that the Secretary of Labor will not be ashamed to preside over the department because it is completely stripped of its authority and jurisdiction."

The department, he declared, ought to be as important as it had been planned to make it when it was set up, and the Secretary of Labor should not be presiding "over a mere shell of an office."

Reiterating his party's campaign pledges to expand social security benefits and raise the minimum wage, the Senator declared that the cost of industrial profits $5,500,000,000 in 1939 to an estimated $21,000,000,000 in 1948.

While he said, he did not intend to endorse any "general raid" on industrial profits "entire responsibility for the mounting cost of living," he felt that fairness required that they take their share of responsibility for the "sky high cost of living."

Mr. Barkley promised continuation of the bipartisan foreign policy. He emphasized that while our 4-year program to help Europe and Asia was "unprecedented" it was not "without precedent." The Marshall Plan, he said, has learned "the hard way" that "our security and liberty cannot forever be safe if all the rest of the world is insecure."

Defending free enterprise and the profit system, he contrasted it with communism, which, he said, "would do away with the right of individuals to pursue their enterprises, but looks upon them as mere parts of a great machine, a sort of juggernaut running over the individual and over the world in order that some godless ideology may become dominant throughout the world."

Harriman Praises Labor, Says ERP Making Gains

Cincinnati.—W. Averell Harriman, U. S. special representative in Europe for the Economic Cooperation Administration, praised American labor for part it has played in the successful operation of the European Recovery Program to date.

In an address before the delegates attending the 67th AFL convention here, Mr. Harriman declared:

"I stand before you today to thank you for what you have done, to express the hope that you will redouble your efforts, and to express to you my confidence in what you are doing and can do.

"While pointing out clearly that the main job under the Marshall Plan is still ahead, Mr. Harriman said that there has been satisfactory progress during the first year of the 4-year program. He said:

"I can report with great assurance progress in industrial production, progress in agricultural production, progress in cooperation among the participating nations, but above all progress in the morale and spirit of the people of Europe."

To supplement our efforts in aiding Europe to recover on the economic front, we must now find ways and means by which a greater sense of security can grow in western Europe, Mr. Harriman declared. He said:

"The security interests of the people of the United States, as well as the security interests of the free world, necessitate our standing together and developing an integrated security.

"We have abandoned isolationism in the political front, on the economic front, and now we must abandon it on the security front."

Mr. Harriman asserted that the determination of the free peoples of the world to stand together will prevent the expansion of the Soviet-imposed communist system by force of arms. War can be avoided, he said, if such determination is in evidence, because then there will be no question of the Russian leaders making the error of attacking individual nations and driving them under the communist yoke.

In underlining the future, Mr. Harriman called for patience and understanding based upon the realization that the European Recovery Program is a long-term program and he emphasized that "if we stick to this program in 4 years' time we will wonder why we were so concerned about the aggression that is now in the East."

"American labor has an important role," he said. "With your full participation the people of the United States can, and I believe will, take the first foundation of international relations on which men can live together in freedom, assuming proper obligations to each other and recognizing each others rights."

AFL Urged to Drive For Administration Of Housing Laws to Aid All Americans

Cincinnati.—Speaking before the 67th convention of the American Federation of Labor, Lee F. Johnson, executive vice president of the National Public Housing Conference, congratulated that body on its magnificent victory on November 2 and predicted that it will eventually mean a substantial number of homes for those in the greatest need.

Johnson stressed the fact, however, that regardless of the kind of legislation that may go on the statute books in the 81st Congress, it will be only as effective as those who are charged with its administration.

"The plea of the National Public Housing Conference is that labor intensify its interest and its leadership on the housing front. Specifically," he stated, "the best subsidiary of the real estate lobby has been the Federal Housing Administration.

"Throughout the years of its life and death fear of a socialist economy in America did not bear a scintilla of reality. It did offer a penny's worth of leadership in the field of private constructive fight," carried on a great educational program, and has unquestionably evident by their vast quiet. Undoubtedly staff members supplied housing facts and doubtless gave some splendid statements to the writers of speeches. But the fight for housing was not being carried on for housing by anyone but the people, your organization, veterans, and others with the scrapping leadership of President Truman.

"All that I am saying," Johnson pointed out, "it is that people of little vision can kill a decent housing program as quickly as impossible, arrogant, 50th Congress.

Johnson's plan to the convention was for a fighting labor leadership greater than ever evidenced before. He urged a program of public housing, slum clearance, urban redevelopment, and veterans housing. Better housing research, grants for federal aid to families of low income, and the application of a fighting leadership on the part of labor to the administration of the new housing program for all of the people. Leadership in the interest of the consumer of homes creates, the demand for homes and of money lenders," he concluded.

DENHAM WILL FOLLOW USUAL TOUGH POLICY

Washington.—Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, and, as such, the "czar" over the nation's industrial relations, announced he would follow a "business as usual" policy, despite the administration's pledge that it would seek repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

Mr. Denham said here that he would keep on administering the Republican-sponsored labor law "as if nothing had happened," so long as it was on the books. He has some ideas of his own for changing it, but "nobody has asked me for any so far, he added.

Full Text of AFL Declaration Demanding T-H Law Repeal

(Following is the complete text of the declaration calling for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law which was adopted unanimously by the 67th convention of the American Federation of Labor.)

Cincinnati.—The American people have spoken. The mandate of a free people, in a free election, has been recorded. The verdict of the ballot box is clear, concise, and convincing.

The major issue of the 1948 presidential campaign was the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. It was submitted to the electorate in one of the greatest series of debates in American political history. The people made it clear that these history making debates were carried on, not only in the campaign trail as the presidential aspirants, but in every state and city of our country by thousands of speakers. Many of these were candidates for public office, and countless others, including labor trade union officials, spoke out as they had not realized what was at stake, and were determined to keep this issue close to the hearts of our republic.

The Taft-Hartley Act amended the Clayton amendments to the antitrust law, in a manner which eliminated the labor injunction had been outlawed.

The Taft-Hartley Act amended the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-injunction Act by making it mandatory that the board of control of the NLRB in certain cases, go to the federal court to secure injunctions against labor. It also provided that in other types of cases, the board could use discretionary authority in applying for injunctions.

Before the passage of the Norris-LaGuardia Act, employers seeking injunctions in connection with labor disputes, employed their own attorneys. Under the Taft-Hartley Act the federal government, the taxpayers, met the cost.

The Taft-Hartley Act contains many provisions making collective bargaining more difficult. It made it impossible for trade unions to secure union shop provisions by a collective bargaining agreement, until a majority of employes had been held.

The Taft-Hartley Act places exclusive authority in the chief counsel of the NLRB, in the determination of all that should be done in a large majority of labor cases.

The Taft-Hartley Act was so drawn that many chains were forged which serve to injure the free trade union movement, destroy democratic rights, obstructing contractual relations with their employes through collective bargaining.

It did not give prime consideration to public welfare. It did not safeguard the rights of employes. The act was a definite piece of class legislation, and for that reason it was intolerable to fair-thinking men, whether in industry or labor. Its operation was rightly driving a wedge between fair-minded and decent employers and their organized employes.

This issue on the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act having been taken to the people for their decision, and having been decided in the affirmative, places the question squarely upon the elected representatives of the Congress of the United States. Will they now carry out the will of the majority of the people as expressed at the polls?

While 9 Senators and 57 Representatives—Republicans and Democrats alike—who voted for the act were defeated for reelection, only a small number of Congress who voted to sustain the presidential veto of the act failed to be reelected.

The action of the voters made it clear that they were convinced that the act was conceived in a narrow spirit of retaliation, and based on a misconception of defiance. It must not remain on the statute books to provide disturbance and open-handed and well considered effort of reasonable men within the labor movement to provide for cooperation with management and established a more orderly basis for industrial relations in our country.

In the British House of Commons, often described as the "Mother of Parliaments," when a government in power administration is defeated in a majority vote of confidence, it resigns and a new government is formed.

American politics provide for no such prompt retirement of a government defeated at the polls, but the spirit of true parliamentary government should prevail in our land.

Members of Congress who voted for the act, and voted to override the presidential veto, would not consider the character of the times, and the clear mandate of the people in November 1948. In true American spirit these Congressmen and Senators would accept the will of the people as expressed by the ballot, repeal the obnoxious Taft-Hartley Act, and reestablishing the Wagner Act dealing the obnoxious Taft-Hartley Act, and reestablishing the Wagner Act with such further congressional action as is necessary to restore the full intent and purpose of the Clayton amendments to the antitrust act, and all the labor provisions of our republic by the original Norris-LaGuardia Act.

There must, however, be no hiatus between the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and the reenactment of the Wagner Act. The economic health, safety, and welfare of the nation must not again be placed in jeopardy by the irresponsible actions of anyone.

Your committee believes that this is not the time for recrimination, political or otherwise. This is the time for all of us to remember that we are united as a people, and increase our strength as a nation.

We need to close our ranks, to build for a better future upon the basis of the Wagner Act, and the other act hereinbefore referred to, as American citizens we are in deeply conscious of our responsibility to the general public as well as to our membership. After the Wagner Labor Relations Act is restored we will be ready to consider any amendments that may be found necessary to the act and to strengthen collective bargaining procedures.

We realize that any activity on the part of management, or on the part of labor, which fails to secure a generous measure of public approval and support, will be used as a reason for enactment of restrictive legislation by the state legislation. In taking this position we are conscious of the fact that for labor or other groups to seek a correspondingly responsibility, and it is with this consciousness that we prepare ourselves for the repeal of the most obnoxious and unsound labor measure which has ever been enacted by Congress.

Hubert Humphrey, Victor Over Ball, Says Election Testimonial to Freedom

Cincinnati. — Hubert Humphrey, popular young mayor of Minneapolis and Senatorial candidate, addressed the AFL convention here that the recent election was the "greatest testimonial to freedom that the world has ever known."

In an address before an enthusiastic audience, Mr. Humphrey declared that in the campaign just ended labor and other groups must leave sectionalism" and "class hatred" and "climb on to the high plateau of progressive citizenship where "only action will lead us to a better world."

Humphrey urged the adoption of a comprehensive program which will be far beyond repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, the newly elected Senator urged all groups interested in preserving "the present way of life" to work with the Democratic Party in its drive to make good on its campaign promises. He said:

"Labor must take a broad view. It don't believe there is much room in America for a sectarian type of view. I think the election has proven that there is a community of interest that goes far beyond any one particular group."

To serve this community of interest, Mr. Humphrey pledged himself to work for improvements in our social security system, for an increase in the minimum wage, federal aid to education, for enactment of long-range housing program, and for legislation to protect and guarantee the basic civil rights of every person of the nation.

In his long range housing question Mr. Humphrey said the people ill need "legislation that will help to facilitate and make more readily available the opportunity to home ownership." He urged labor to play greater role in the drive to gain such legislation and to come up with a program of its own.

In his call upon all groups to work together to meet the nation's economic and social needs, Mr. Humphrey stressed the value of cooperation of labor and farm interests. Declaring that there is "much a great interdependency in our economy that if any one group is prosperous all are prosperous," another we are in for trouble," he emphasized the fact that farm legislation deserves as careful attention from labor as does labor legislation itself.

The Senator-elect hit at those who attempt to write off as pure "ideal-

AFL Urges Support For All State Bodies

Cincinnati.—The AFL convention adopted unanimously a declaration setting forth a 6-point program designed to promote the affiliation of a greater number of local unions with the AFL's state federations of labor.

The declaration recommended:

1. That all state federations prepare a list showing locals which are and are not affiliated with them, and request the appropriate international unions to urge the locals to become affiliated.

2. That the AFL prepare material showing the value of affiliation with the state bodies by publications in the journals of the international unions.

3. That all international unions take consideration to the proposal to insert in their constitutions a provision requiring the affiliation of their local unions with the state federations of labor.

In support of the recommended program, the declaration emphasized the importance of the state federations in coordinating the activities of the international unions in each state for the purpose of backing legislation favorable to labor.

The declaration also pointed out the value of the state federations in political activities. It said:

"In the recent political campaign, in the state federations of labor that supplied a rallying ground for labor and served as a coordination to carry on its work. The suggestion is made that the state federations of labor in organizing on the political front will be of great value to win the admiration and commendation of every sincere trade unionist."

AIR LINE PILOTS MUST TAKE LEAD IN PROMOTING SAFETY

Chicago.—It's up to the air line pilots of the nation to take the lead in air safety, David L. Behncke, president of the Air Line Pilots Association (AFL), told 152 delegates at the opening session of the association's convention here.

"The air line pilots' record for safety is the watchdog of safety," he declared, "because the pilots are the only ones who don't have a pecuniary interest in your safety actions."

Decrying the fact that over 400 people have been killed in air crashes in the past 2 years, he said it was ironical that the company that sells you air travel has the greatest safety is the key to profit and success.

"The pilots have to show the way," Mr. Behncke stated.

Mr. Behncke told the delegates that the Air Line Pilots Association had submitted over 100 safety recommendations since the organization's last convention in June, 1947, and participated in 18 accident investigations and hearings.

Numerous new safety recommendations will be presented for the consideration of this convention. The 152 delegates represent all the operating companies that cover 6,000 pilots flying for 29 regularly scheduled air lines, both in the United States and abroad.

THREE UNION TEACHERS ELECTED TO CONGRESS

Chicago—Three teacher union members were elected to the Congress of the United States in the recent election, according to an announcement by Irving R. Koenig, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL).

Rep. Helen Douglas de Douglas, recently defeated Wayland C. Brooks in a hotly contested election. Mrs. Douglas, former college professor and mayor of Minneapolis, Albert Humphrey, defeated Congressman Ball in the contest which was no less bitter than the Douglas-Brooks battle in Illinois. In Wisconsin, teacher-statesman Andrew J. Biemiller of Milwaukee, former member of the State Assembly, was elected to the House of Representatives who was defeated in the 1946 election, was reelected to Congress.

"The American Federation of Teachers are is very proud," Secretary Koenig said. "We have always supported campaigning seats in Congress at this crucial time in the history of the world. We feel they can make an outstanding contribution in advancing and protecting democratic government in the United States."

Green Reelected to 25th Term as President; Meany and Council Members Reelected; Final Action on Legislative Goals

Cincinnati.—The American Federation of Labor set repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and the reenactment of the Wagner Act for its primary goal, as the concluding session of the 67th convention rounded out its broad, progressive legislative program.

At the same time, the convention declared the AFL would be willing, after the full restoration of the Wagner Act, to consider any necessary amendments that "may be desirable to bring the act up to date" which embrace collective bargaining procedures.

The final day of the convention brought action on other major AFL programs of great importance to the American labor movement and to all the people of the nation, including endorsement of a long-range housing program, lifting of the minimum wage, approval of a plan for federal aid to education, adoption of a "clean bill" civil rights policy declaration, and expansion of the social security system.

In other action, AFL President William Green was reelected unanimously for his 25th term as the AFL's chief executive. Also elected unanimously were George Meany, secretary-treasurer; William L. Hutcheson, first vice-president; Matthew Woll, second vice-president; Joseph N. Weber, third vice-president; George M. Harrison, fourth vice-president; Daniel J. Tobin, fifth vice-president; Harry C. Bates, sixth vice-president; W. D. Mahon, seventh vice-president; W. C. Hushright, eighth vice-president; W. C. Doherty, ninth vice-president; John Dubinsky, tenth vice-president; Charles J. MacGowan, eleventh vice-president; Herman Winter, twelfth vice-president; and D. W. Tracy, thirteenth vice-president.

In an acceptance speech, Mr. Green declared that since the election there has been the "dawn of a new day, a new experience, and a new opportunity for the American Federation of Labor."

Declaring that the keynote in spirit of vindictiveness even toward its foe, Mr. Green said that the AFL would work for constructive legislation which would "add strength to the nation" and would "lift the standard of living of the people of our nation."

In pursuing this goal, Mr. Green said the AFL will not tolerate any attempts on the part of the new Congress to "avoid the will of the people as expressed in the election."

Rounding out is program of legislative action, the convention declared in favor of the following:

1. A strong denunciation of the expansionist tactics of Soviet Russia, which has blamed for the present international tension and the cold war, and a positive program calling for U. S. to enter into a military alliance with western European powers, extension of the Marshall Plan and the European Recovery Program, urging the severing of all trade relations with Russia until the Soviet Union abides by its pledges and rejecting any further appeasement unless directed through the machinery of the United Nations.

2. The enactment of a comprehensive long-range housing program with provision for the building of 1,000,000 public housing units for low-income families during the next 10 years.

3. A federal aid-to-education program sufficient to raise substandard levels of the nation in peace or war, by raising the general level of prosperity.

4. A proposal expressing hope that the United Mine Workers of America would return to the AFL fold.

5. Lifting of the minimum wage to $1 an hour and extension of Fair Labor Standards Act to all workers in industries affecting interstate commerce, in industrialized agriculture, in agricultural processing, and in the maritime industry.

6. Improvement of the social security system through the lifting of benefits paid, extension of the law to those not now covered and the introduction of a national health insurance program.

7. Approval of the action of the national committee of Labor's Non-Partisan League [illegible] duration to continue the AFL's political arm on a permanent basis.

In other developments, the convention heard:

1. W. Averell Harriman's report on progress in Europe for the Economic Cooperation Administration, report that progress is being made under the ERP which, if continued, will lead to a free and prosperous Europe.

2. Oscar Ewing, administrator of the Federal Security Administration, call for the adoption of a national health plan.

3. Senator-Elect Hubert Humphrey urge labor to adopt the broad view in framing its legislative program rather than all-American issues.

The last official act of the convention was the selection of St. Paul, Minn., as the convention city for 1949.

Ten-Point Foreign Policy Program Is Advocated by AFL Convention

Cincinnati.—The AFL convention adopted unanimously a 10-point foreign policy declaration designed to check the aggressions of the Soviet Union which it said was responsible for the present international tension.

The main provisions of the program call for continued support of the European Recovery Program, strengthening the authority and the authority of the United Nations, and the United States to enter into a military alliance against totalitarian aggression which will be "tantamount to peace," the severing of trade relations with Russia until the Soviet blockade of Berlin is lifted.

Outlining a course of action for the United States, the declaration said:

"We cannot sit idly by and let one free nation after another become a helpless victim of satellite or dictatorship despotism. We cannot callously and in a spirit of self-defeating self-ishness allow one democracy after another to be engulfed and permanently dependent on us. America has only one role and one duty in this critical hour of human affairs. We have to win—with honor. We have the free labor movement has a decisive role to play.

Following is the text of the 10-point declaration:

"1. We reiterate our support of the United Nations charter.

"2. We categorically reject all efforts to appease the aggressive policy of the UN and the solidarity of the democratic nations through private arrangements between the U. S. S. R. and individual nations, political chiefs of state, or missions to Moscow. We believe such appeals only encourage the aggressors and divide the country from the Soviet empire are the greatest menace to peace in the world. Therefore, every effort should be made to resist them and to prevent appeasement which only feeds and encourages aggression through the channels of the UN and closest cooperation and collective decisions by the democratic nations.

"3. The United States should not only put its own defenses into complete readiness and invincibility, but should also provide arms and enter into a defensive military alliance against totalitarian aggression which may threaten friendly nations in Europe, Asia, or elsewhere.

"4. Until such time as Russia is ready to lift her barbarous block-

ade of Berlin, our countries should cease all trade relations with the USSR.

"5. To keep the AFL constituents in the social and economic council of the UN, we request a measure making it a crime against international law for any country with which the United States to enter into a military alliance against totalitarian aggression which will be "tantamount to peace," the severing of trade relations with Russia until the Soviet blockade of Berlin is lifted.

"6. We reiterate our demand for the restoration of the independence of every zone of Germany not occupied by the USSR, and the continuity of independent and democratic parties in Germany to secure construction and peace. We further demand that the industrial and financial magnates who have been friends and supporters of Hitler, Mussolini, and Nazism (like the steel industrialists Thyssen and Krupp) and the other industrialists who have been drawn into the seats of economic control is to be restored to the people for peaceful which a democratically reconstructed Germany is destined to be.

"7. We reaffirm our support of the Germany is destined to be.

"7. We reaffirm our support of the principle of developing a United States of Europe.

"8. We call for the fundamental revision of the UN charter in respect to the veto power.

"9. We reiterate our indorsement of the principle of international control and inspection of atomic energy and propose the application of its principles as pre-requisite to effective gradual universal disarmament.

"10. All peace treaties and international agreements are to be based on the principles of the Atlantic charter and the charter of the United Nations. All decisions and pacts arrived at Yalta, Potsdam, and the treaty with Italy should be reviewed and revised accordingly."

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor executive to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1948

WILLIAM GREEN, President — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

FIGHT TB
Buy
Christmas Seals

Convention Approves 4-Point Program For Improvements in Social Insurance

Cincinnati.—The 67th convention of the American Federation of Labor directed its committee on social security to urge the enactment by the 81st Congress of a comprehensive program to build up the nation's social security system.

The proposed legislation as set forth by the convention should include the following 4-point program:

1. Old-Age and Survivors Insurance.—The coverage should be extended to include all wage earners and self-employed persons.

Benefits should be materially increased all along the line. The improved benefits formula should be made applicable to those presently eligible and to those newly brought under the system.

The protection given to the dependents of women and men should be equalized.

The test of retirement should be liberalized to permit eligible persons to retain at least part-time employment without jeopardizing their rights.

The contribution rate of both employers and employes should be increased at the time benefits are raised, with provision for a contribution from the general revenues of government when justified to maintain the financial soundness of the system.

2. Permanent Disability.—Benefit provisions to include retraining and rehabilitation.

3. Temporary Disability.—A federal system of disability insurance for those temporarily incapacitated or illness not covered by workmen's compensation.

4. Health Insurance.—A comprehensive program to provide and meet the costs of medical care and service by the extension of social insurance should be established. Such program must preserve the individual rights of both patients and physicians. The program should include provision for the extension of social insurance and should be established. Such program must preserve the individual rights of both patients and physicians. The program should include provision for the extension of hospitals and health centers, the training of medical personnel, and development of research.

Interim Program: a. State Unemployment Compensation Programs.—Pending enactment of a national system of unemployment insurance and temporary disability insurance, much can be done immediately to meet the deficiencies of the present state unemployment compensation programs.

Federal Government should also revise the system of financing both for administration and for benefits. For administration, a contingency fund should be set up to facilitate the budgeting of state agency requirements.

We favor federal standards which would prohibit the states from disqualifying or cancelling earned benefit rights to claimants whose unemployment is a result of a quit for good cause or because it is not due to any act attributable to the employer." Pending adoption of such standards, the states should be left free to establish their present disqualification provisions.

We favor the most liberal and gradual improvement in benefit provisions of the programs, the increase in the living costs now makes it imperative that benefits be substantially raised.

Under the amendments to the Social Security Act the states are now able to include temporary disability insurance in their unemployment compensation laws. In two or three states having such provisions dangerous precedents have been established. We urge that state considerations of labor in considering such provisions for unemployment compensation acts to exercise extreme care to prevent these precedents become so entrenched as to jeopardize the possibility of sound insurance of this kind.

b. Aid to Children.—We believe that all children regardless of race, residence or source of income have the right to whatever health and welfare services are necessary for their well being for wholesome growth and development and that it is the responsibility of the federal government to help the states and communities meet those requirements. We favor raising the amounts available for payments to the states to enable them to meet in full need the requirements of an adequate maternal and child welfare program.

Green Gives Highlights Of 67th AFL Convention

Cincinnati.—AFL President William Green, speaking for the Executive Council, gave a brief summary of some of the highlights of the actions taken by the AFL's 67th convention here.

Mr. Green's remarks were prepared for delivery for newsreel cameramen who took movie shots of the council at its final meeting held during the convention period.

Following is the text of Mr. Green's statement which will be heard by millions of people throughout the nation in newsreel theaters:

"The 67th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor has just ended after adopting a program calling for progressive and constructive action both in the domestic and international fields.

"Our 700 delegates, representing 8,000,000,000 American workers, unanimously demanded prompt repeal of the reactionary Taft-Hartley Act with restoration of the Wagner Act. In so doing, we are not opening the door for a new wave of strikes. On the contrary, we seek to establish lasting peace between management and labor on a basis completely fair to both.

"The convention also called upon the incoming 81st Congress to enact an effective housing program to provide for every family in the nation a minimum wage to a decent level; to provide higher social security benefits and to give every American citizen a chance to get ahead.

"In the international field, the convention denounced the aggressive policies of Soviet Russia, pledged full support to the European Recovery Program and unanimously decided that the preservation of world peace depends upon maintaining a firm policy against unjust demands by Stalin."

AFL Urges Federal Aid to Education; Hits Merit Rating, Asks $3,000 Pay Floor

Cincinnati.—The American Federation of Labor called unanimously for federal aid to education "to promote the welfare and security of the nation."

In a declaration approved by the 67th convention, the AFL also urged the raising of the minimum salary to $3,960 per year to qualified teachers in the nation's schools, and opposed any system of establishing salaries on the basis of individual merit ratings.

Urging the adoption of a federal educational program, the convention declaration said:

"Throughout its entire history the AFL has based its philosophy on the belief that widespread education is essential to the success of a democratic government. A system of government which recognizes the importance and the dignity of the individual citizen must be predicated upon intelligent participation by the individual citizen in the affairs of government. Government of the people, by the people and for the people requires a high level of education and understanding on the part of the citizens of the nation. In those nations of the world where the great majority of the citizens are illiterate, democratic government is impossible. Totalitarianism thrives upon ignorance and suppression of knowledge. Autocracy thrives upon education and discrimination. It breeds class and caste among men.

"It is a responsibility of the federal government to see to it that financial assistance is given to those states and areas of the nation which do not have sufficient wealth to maintain adequate levels of education and to assist in maintaining high educational standards throughout the nation. This responsibility emanates not only from the interest of a democratic government in the welfare and happiness of individual citizens but also from the duty of a democratic government to build a sound educational foundation for the welfare and security of the nation as a whole.

"We believe the time has now come for an immediate start on a federal program of federal aid to education. The President of the United States has taken an unequivocal stand in favor of such aid. The 81st Congress has declared itself emphatically in favor of federal aid for the schools. The Secretary of Labor, in addressing this convention, has declared for aid to education as one of the important planks in the platform of the Congress should enact a federal aid program which will bring the educational levels of education and to promote the general welfare of the nation, its peace or in war, by raising the general level of education.

"We believe that teachers' salaries, the declaration said the establishment of the $3,000 minimum salary "should be a primary objective of the federal aid program."

Lashing out at the merit rating system for determining teachers' salaries, the convention called it a "disgrace to the school system of the United States." The policy statement declared:

"The danger and ridiculousness of basing wages on merit ratings alone is emphasized by the fact that many of those who are promoting rating schemes advocate that rating should be made by the head of the office of the employe, but on such intangible criteria as attitude toward the community, service to the community, personality and other intangibles. Can anyone imagine the chaos which would be created if employers were basing wages on rating and if in turn the rating were based on the workers' community activities?

"The proposal to base teachers' salaries on merit ratings is an attempt to determine the exact dollar value of the services rendered. It runs counter to the principles of collective bargaining and the principles of wages scales which are applicable to all employes in the bargaining unit."

Jewell Outlines Role Of Labor Under ERP

Cincinnati—Bert M. Jewell, labor advisor to the Economic Cooperation Administration, declared that labor's support for and participation in the European Recovery Program "gives the lie to the Communist charge that the Marshall Plan is a war plan."

In a message to the AFL convention, Mr. Jewell said that the cooperation of labor in the American phase of the European recovery program has had a tremendous effect in stiffening the resistance of European workers to the encroachments of the Communists.

Outlining the extent of labor's participation in the Marshall Plan, Mr. Jewell explained the organizational setup of labor's role in Washington and the part labor is playing in the Paris office of the ECA.

Labor is represented on the advisory board provided by Congress to guide the ECA administrator, he said, by three members of the labor advisory committee to the secretary-treasurer, George Meany.

In addition to the advisory board, labor has a labor advisor to serve on the Washington staff and to consult with him on ECA policy matters, Jewell declared. This labor advisor is Boyd Leedom, who is in charge of labor relations on what the Marshall Plan is doing, he added. This function is under the direction of Harry Bates, well-known former official of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, he said.

In Paris, Jewell declared, the European operations of the ECA, where Boris Shishkin, AFL economist on leave of absence, is the manpower division chief.

Labor plays still another important role, Jewell said, in the various groups in the 16 European nations cooperating under the Marshall Plan. Serving as labor's representatives in these ministries, the men are drawn from the ranks of American labor actually participate in the day-to-day functioning of the Marshall Plan at the grass-roots level.

In addition to the labor men holding important posts with the ECA organization, Mr. Jewell declared, labor's men in each of the participating nations are working to back the ERP program. To implement their efforts, they formulate labor's policies and participate in the AFL, the European Trade Union Advisory Committee, which will serve as the organ through which labor participation in the program will be strengthened.

RFC BUYS $26,400,000 IN GI HOME MORTGAGES

Washington.—The Reconstruction Finance Corporation reported it bought during October $26,400,000 in home loan mortgages guaranteed by the Veterans Administration or insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

This compared with $20,000,000 in September. The RFC purchases are intended to provide the former holders of the mortgages with funds which can be used for new mortgage loans.

RFC Chairman Harley Hise said the October purchases raised the total of mortgages held by RFC's subsidiary, the National Mortgage Association, to $128,000,000.

In addition, the association has contracted to buy $216,000,000 more mortgages, Hise said that after covering these contracts $318,000,000 will be available for further mortgage purchases.

AFL Executive Council Meets; Discusses Reaffiliation of IAM

Convention Calls For New Housing Law; Public Housing Projects Held Vital Need

Cincinnati.—A declaration adopted unanimously by the 67th AFL convention called for the early enactment of a long-range housing measure to meet the needs of the American people.

The highlight of the declaration was the recommendation for the construction of 1,000,000 publicly financed housing units for low-income families.

The convention called for the construction of these dwellings over a 5-year period.

In addition to the public housing feature, the convention declaration said:

"The housing legislation which is considered in the next Congress must include the objectives long sought by labor. It must include an adequate program of farm and rural housing, slum clearance and urban redevelopment, aids for financing of large-scale cooperative and nonprofit housing developments for middle-income families."

The convention declared that the AFL "will continue its efforts to assists its "the only possible way of meeting decent homes for low-income families now living under crowded, unhealthful slum conditions.

The declaration charged that the real estate lobby and a small but powerful group of reactionaries succeeded in killing the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill, the long-range measure which had the backing of organized labor. In its place, the convention declared, Congress passed the so-called Housing Act of 1948 which "contains all the provisions requested by the private builders, but none of the provisions required by organized labor to solve the housing crisis."

Looking to the future, the declaration asserted:

"With a majority of the members of the 81st Congress committed to the enactment of a comprehensive long-range housing program, organized labor at last has the opportunity to secure early enactment of labor's housing program. The American Federation of Labor must take the initiative so that the goal of a decent home for every American family can be achieved. We urge the most energetic measure of support be given by every AFL affiliate so that the fight for labor's housing program in the next Congress can be successful."

AFL Convention Sets Up New Legislative Council

Cincinnati.—To further the legislative policy adopted by the AFL delegates to the 67th convention voted to establish a new national legislative council.

The council will be composed of the AFL's legislative committee and the officially designated representative from each of the AFL's national and international unions participating in the activities of the council. It is estimated that all legislative activities of the AFL will be coordinated by the council in order that maximum effort may be channeled toward the implementation of the resolutions and policies adopted by the AFL convention.

The section of the convention declaration which authorized the establishment of the council follows:

"Resolved, That the 67th convention of the American Federation of Labor instruct the Executive Council to establish a national legislative council for the express purpose of furthering the legislative policies adopted by the Labor conventions and its Executive Council. The said legislative council shall be composed of the legislative committee of the American Federation of Labor and the officially designated legislative representative from each national and international union participate in the council's activities. Meetings shall be held at least quarterly or at the time that Congress convenes and a complete report of all activities shall be submitted to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. The secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor shall serve as the coordinator of the council. Finally, of the national legislative council, that the secretary of the national legislative council serve as chairman pro tem until the chairman of the legislative activity shall come within the purview of the national legislative council, and all affiliated unions are requested to designate an official representative."

Ewing Assails Foes of Health Insurance; Says Plan Would Not Socialize Medicine

Cincinnati.—Oscar R. Ewing, Federal General Counsel, declared that the arguments advanced by the opponents of a national health insurance program that it would socialize medicine, destroy the doctor-patient relationship and stifle medical research are "pure poppycock."

Mr. Ewing's charges was made in an address before the AFL's 67th convention. Individuals do not like it, he said, but the recent election showed that the people of America want improvements in the social security and assistance programs, he declared.

While he stressed the need to strengthen the social security system operated by the Federal Security Agency, Mr. Ewing said that the United States Employment Service and the unemployment compensation division within FSA be returned to the Labor Department as one of the steps necessary to the revitalization of that agency.

In the health field, Mr. Ewing declared that voluntary systems of health insurance are inadequate to meet the urgent need for medical care in the low-income groups. Pointing out that "only one out of every people live in families with a total income of less than $3,000 a year, he declared that they cannot pay either the premiums required by a voluntary system, or the fees charged by doctors who operate on a fee-for-service basis.

Mr. Ewing referred to the program which he recommended to the President's Conference on Health, outlining a 10-year program for improving the health of the nation. The report called for the expansion of medical facilities and personnel and urged the adoption of a compulsory insurance system to be financed by payroll deductions. Explaining the purposes of the recommended health insurance plan, he said:

"So as large an extent as possible it would be administered by local boards, similar to local draft boards. A doctor could join the system or not as he chose. If he joins, he and other doctors in a particular local community would meet with the local board that was administering the health program. Each doctor then would agree on a scale of fees to be paid medical services—not much for an office visit, so much for a tonsilectomy, etc. The local medical society of that community, who is covered by the health insurance program, would designate the doctor of his choice. That doctor would be absolutely free to take or refuse to take any individual who applied to him. However, if the doctor makes no objection, the relationship would be in effect and continue until one or the other chose to lift the bonds.

"The only difference between what I propose and the present system is that the doctor will be paid for his services by the health insurance fund rather than by the patient directly. There is absolutely no interference with the doctor-patient relationship. There is not the slightest professional control over the doctor. He administers whatever medicines his professional judgment requires. He is free to conduct research as he is under the present system. The argument that we are proposing socialized medicine that would interfere with the doctor-patient relationship, that we would stifle medical research, etc., is pure poppycock."

LABOR URGED TO TRAIN MEN FOR FOREIGN SERVICE

Milwaukee.—Clinton Golden, labor adviser to Paul Hoffman in the Economic Cooperation Administration has urged the major labor federations to take the responsibility for training a number of their well-qualified leaders for international service. Speaking before the Midwest Education Conference at Milwaukee, Mr. Golden proposed that a Labor Service Reserve be established, composed of union members who would receive training in the fields of international economics, foreign labor movements, international organizations, and foreign languages.

Green to Seek Meeting With Representatives Of Machinists

Cincinnati. — The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor began action here on the host of actions referred to it by the 67th convention.

The council went into session on the day following the adjournment of the convention which concluded its activities in a last-minute pre-Thanksgiving rush. As the council went into session, transportation facilities of all types were taxed to capacity by delegates attempting to get home for the holiday.

The "victory" mood of the convention itself was succeeded by the holiday spirit as delegates from all parts of the nation said farewell to their associates and started homeward to report on one of the most successful conventions ever held in AFL's history.

AFL President William Green told newsmen at a press conference which followed the council meeting that one of the tasks on which he will act immediately is to carry out the wish of the convention and seek to bring about the reunion of the International Association of Machinists with the AFL.

Mr. Green expressed hope that a settlement of the 2-year dispute over jurisdictional questions will be arranged in order that the 700,000 machinists could return to the AFL fold.

Negotiations will be started, Mr. Green said, between committees representing the AFL and the IAM. Serving on the AFL committee for this purpose are the members of the Executive Council whose offices and residences are in Washington. The IAM committee is expected to be headed by Eric Peterson, general secretary of the union.

In response to questions from reporters, Mr. Green reiterated the AFL's position, as adopted at the convention, on repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. He declared that labor would work vigorously through its newly organized national legislative council for the complete repeal of the law and the restoration of the Wagner Act.

Following this action, Mr. Green declared, the AFL would be willing to make possible amendments to the old Wagner Act which would guarantee a national policy on labor which would be in the interests of the public.

Mr. Green said the council postponed action on a request from a delegation representing the Canadian Labor Congress to request the AFL assistance in ridding Communists from the Canadian labor movement. He said the matter would be discussed at the regular winter session of the council which was set to begin on January 31 in Miami, Fla.

AFL Pledges Help For State of Israel

Cincinnati.—The American Federation of Labor pledged itself to continue to aid Histadrut, the labor federation in Palestine, and the new Republic of Israel.

The convention unanimously approved by the delegates to the 67th convention, the AFL called upon the United States to lift its Middle East arms embargo, and to provide prompt and sufficient financial credit to the new nation.

The convention said all freedom-loving nations should support the State of Israel to enable it to resist "the incursions and infiltration of Communist totalitarians."

"Because of its pivotal position in the Near East and the Middle East," the declaration asserted, "the emergence of the new Republic of the Land of Israel as a bulwark of democracy and independence living standards, and expanding social justice is extremely important to the maintenance of world peace."

The declaration also pledged Jews who have turned to Palestine as the land of their dreams of yesterday and their deeds of tomorrow were the victims of the mass murders of Nazi totalitarianism tyranny. As a result of the unspeakable horrors and simple justice, the civilized world owes to these tortured persecuted people the untrammeled right to this land and the opportunity to develop adequate enough to enable them to work and live and prosper on the basis of their own talents and skills.

"We, therefore, count on our government to pursue such a course in the UN and to do everything in its power to thwart and defeat every attempt to reduce the areas which are historically justifiable and economically indispensable to the prosperity and progress of the Israeli Republic."